EPA PROGRAMS & SUPERFUND OVERVIEW

Forging Partnerships on Emerging Contaminants

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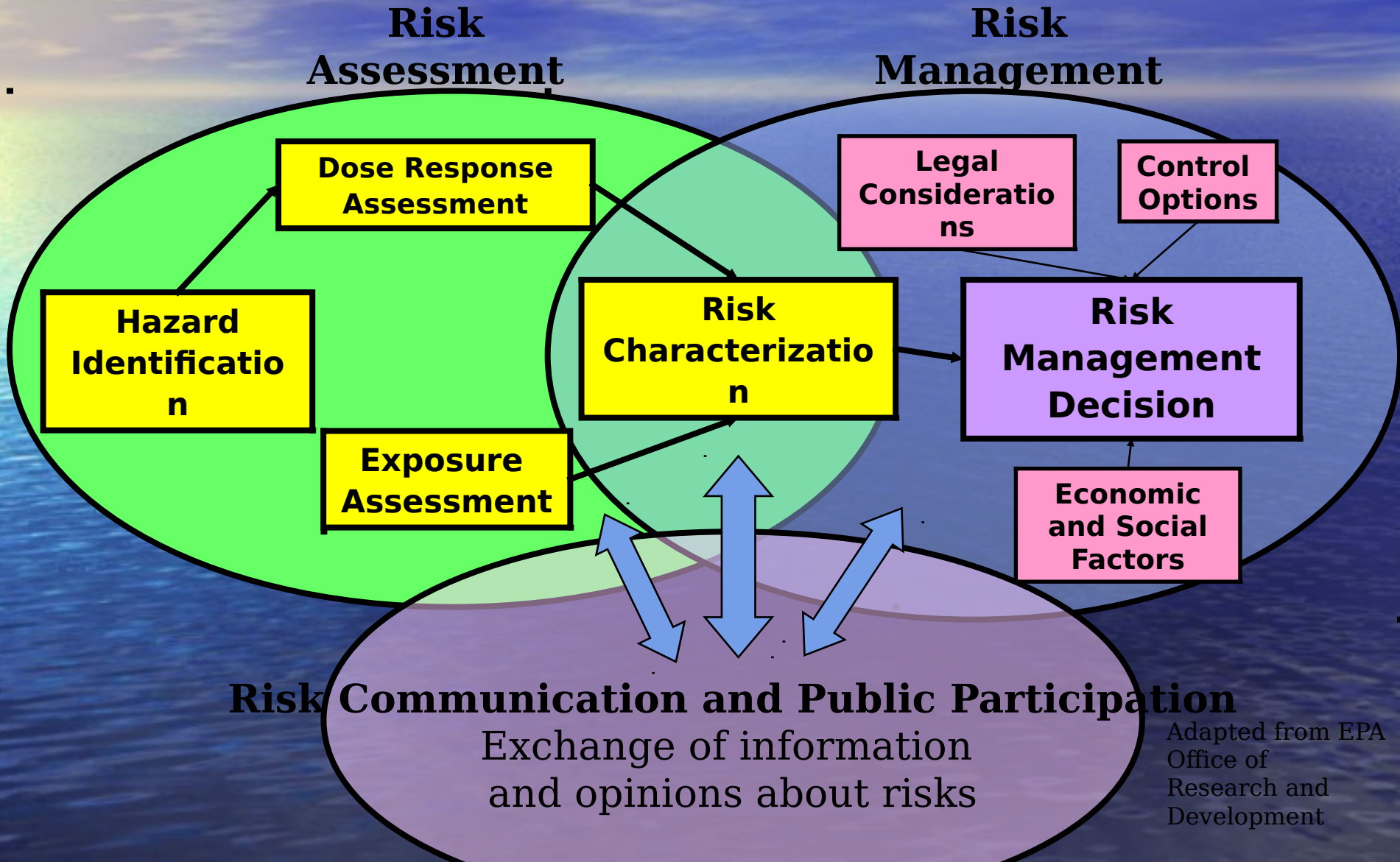
EPA Programs

- All EPA regulatory actions involve managing human health/environmental risks and require stakeholder involvement.
- All EPA regulatory programs have processes for managing risks in the face of scientific uncertainty and limited data.
- In some statutes Congress mandated certain standards of protectiveness without consideration of costs and benefits, while in others, EPA must consider costs and benefits.

Risk Assessment Risk Management Risk Communication



Adapted from EPA Office of Research and Development

Superfund Program

Risk Identification

- Vast majority of contaminated sites identified by the states and EPA regions are not referred to the Superfund program.
- Superfund program currently adds only the most contaminated, most extensive sites that cannot be managed with state voluntary programs, RCRA corrective action, etc.
- Defer to States and other programs (e.g., RCRA) where appropriate.

Superfund Program

Risk Assessment

- Based on contaminant concentrations to which **human** populations, including sensitive subgroups, may be exposed without adverse effects over a lifetime or part of a lifetime, incorporating an adequate margin of safety.

- Environmental Risks must also be addressed.

Superfund Program

Remedial Objectives

- Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)
  - Federal or state legally enforceable standards
  - For example, MCLGs/MCLs, AWQS
- To Be Considered (TBC) Factors if ARARS not Available
  - Federal or state advisories, criteria or guidance
  - For example, IRIS values, State toxicity values

Superfund Program

Risk Management

- The proposed plan for a site describes all the risks, chemicals of concern, alternative remedial actions considered, and the proposed remedial action.

- Statute requires that the proposed remedial action protects human health and the environment; complies with ARARs or justifies a waiver; is cost-effective; utilizes permanent solutions and treatment or recovery to the maximum extent practicable; and demonstrates preference for treatment.

- Whenever contamination is left in place at a site, statute requires the site to be reviewed at least once every 5 years to ensure the remedy is still effective.

Superfund Program

"Emerging Contaminants" at Sites

- Lower detection levels reveal a new contaminant of concern and possible need for additional/ different remedial action.
- New scientific data leads to lower or higher toxicity values for existing chemicals of concern, indicating need for different remedial action.
- New pathway of exposure (e.g., vapor intrusion) indicates need for additional/different remedial action.

Superfund Program

Stakeholder Involvement

- Community Involvement Plan ensures appropriate opportunities for involvement in site decisions throughout the process.
- Public notice and comment on listing a site focusing on site-specific human health and ecological risks.
- Public notice and comment on proposed plan for a site, focusing on site specific risks, chemicals of concern, and remedial actions.